

Living Into Right Relations – December 2023

Hello,

This is a season of giving, and I've been looking for ways to connect my giving with our desire to live into right relations with Indigenous Peoples in Canada. Recently I came across this [report](#) which paints a picture of charitable givings to Indigenous groups in Canada. One summary paragraph that stood out for me includes this 2019 data:

Even though Indigenous people are about 4.9% of the population, Indigenous Groups received just over .7 percent of gifted funds. As Indigenous people account for 4.9% of the Canadian population then Indigenous groups are receiving about 1/7th of the funding that they would receive as a result of population size, even if one ignores issues of need. Indigenous groups are getting about \$1 for every \$138 given to non-Indigenous groups.

Things may have improved somewhat since then but I suspect it's unlikely to be anywhere close to parity.

I am sharing something I'm just learning about. I'm sure there is more to learn. If you're looking for a way to support Indigenous organizations through your charitable giving in addition to the ways you support local Indigenous groups, here's one solution offered by the report: a [CanadaHelps](#) fund called [Indigenous Peoples Solidarity Fund - Unite for Change](#). There are a few other ideas for local and national support in Section 1 below..

Blessings on your Christmas and holiday time,

Nancy (nancydykstra@gmail.com).

Thank you, Henriëtte and Bev for ongoing editing and other support!

1. Ideas for Christmas and New Year's gift giving and donations (Part 2)

- a. [Christmas Gift Program](#) Healing of the Seven Generations, Kitchener
- b. [Six Nations Food Bank desperate for help this holiday season](#), Six Nations
- c. [Water First](#): not an Indigenous-led organization, but they partner with Indigenous communities to train water operators and support access to clean drinking water. You may be able to double your gift through donor matching.
- d. [Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre](#). You can specifically support two of their programs through the United Church's [Gifts with Vision](#) catalogue:
 - i. [Return of the Buffalo](#)
 - ii. [Mamawe Ota Askihk](#)

2. Land Back

- a. [O:se Kenhionhata:tie](#) - read their Facebook posts for news, upcoming events.
 - i. Their new space Willow River Centre 243 King St E. Kitchener.
 - ii. Upcoming event: **Dec 20** [Winter Solstice Feast](#) at the Willow River (Victoria Park) Pavilion.
 - iii. How to support? <https://www.landbackcamp.com/support>
- b. [1492 Land Back Lane](#) The [crown has appealed the absolute discharge](#) granted in October. See Two Row Times article [here](#).
Supportive actions -
 - i. **Friday Lunches for 1492 LandBack Lane. Our next delivery date: Dec 15.** Cash donations can be made through <https://www.parkuc.ca/ways-to-donate/>. Please identify your donation as 1492 LandBack Lane and include your street mailing address if you would like a tax receipt. For more info or to lend a hand, contact me at nancydykstra@gmail.com. Thank you!
 - ii. Support their [legal defense fund](#).

3. Highlighting Indigenous-led initiatives and organizations: SOAHAC

Back in June, [O:se Kenhionhata:tie](#) put out an invitation to their readers to familiarize themselves with various Indigenous-led organizations in Waterloo Region. We're writing about one each month. If you'd like to tell us about one, please forward info along. Thanks.

Southwest Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre ([SOAHAC](#)) provides innovative and Indigenous-informed quality, wholistic health and wellness services for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities living on and off-reserve throughout Southwestern Ontario from five locations. They provide services for children and youth through to seniors, including mental health and addiction services and primary cares.

The [Waterloo Wellington SOAHAC](#) primary care clinic location is in Cambridge at 745 Coronation Blvd, Unit #102. Up to date information about programs can be found on their [Facebook page](#). In addition to Waterloo Wellington, outreach services are offered to the surrounding communities of Six Nations of the Grand River and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. (Thanks, Mary Lou Emburgh.)

4. Learning at home and connecting in person

Calling youth from K-12 to envision what reconciliation looks like in Canada. Sponsored by [Imagine a Canada - National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#). Two streams: [Art and Essays](#) and [Project Stream](#). An idea for teachers??

- a. [Crow Shield Lodge](#) in Waterloo Region has a range of events related to education, healing, land stewardship and reconciliation. This month there are a number of craft workshops in addition to regular sharing circles, starting with this [stocking sewing drop-in](#) on Dec 7. See the current events listing [here](#).

- b. **Dec. 7, 11-noon** [History and Culture through Traditional Games](#), and workshop by Dallas Squire of Onkwehonwe Games. Due to the hands-on and play-based content of the workshop, in-person attendance is strongly recommended. Register [here](#).
- c. **Ends Dec. 8**, [A Visual Reconciliation](#) - Cross-cultural Artistic Reflections on the Seven Sacred Teachings, at Martin Luther University College (Luther) on WLU campus.
- d. **Dec. 8, 15. 8-8:45 p.m.** Faith Climate Justice [Climate Emergency Vigils](#) at Waterloo Town Square.
Speakers: Dec. 8 Amy Smoke; Dec. 15 Myeengun Henry, the final Friday night vigil speaker.
- e. **Dec. 9, Jan. 13, 8 a.m.** [Grand River Water Ceremony](#), new location: [Schneider Park](#), parking off King St, across from Freeport Hospital. This month, we are asked to bring gloves and a garbage bag, to clean up the riverbank together.
- f. **Dec. 13, 12-1 p.m.** (2160 4th Line Road, Ohsweken); and
Dec. 20, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (411 Elgin Street, Brantford)
[Six Nations Polytechnic](#) Lunch & Learn | Make and Take – Corn Husk Ornament.
- g. **Dec. 15, 6:30 - 9:30p.m.** [Community-Building Through Storytelling](#), featuring Indigenous authors. Willow Park Pavilion (aka Victoria Park) Kitchener. Organized by the Indigenous Poets Society. Free, all welcome. Indigenous community storytellers, crafters, artists, allies or service agencies serving the community can register for a table.
- h. **Dec. 17, 11-6** [H7G Art Market and Feast](#) Victoria Park Pavilion, Kitchener.
- i. **Ends Dec. 17** [Carl Beam: Pieces of a Puzzle](#), [Art Gallery of Guelph](#), 358 Gordon St. Guelph.
- a. **Dec. 20 6-8 p.m.** [Public Virtual Six Nations Land Claims Presentation](#) from [Woodland Cultural Centre](#) \$10. Register [here](#).
- b. **Ends Jan 6.** [Doug Maracle: Come Walk With Me](#) exhibit in the gallery at Woodland Cultural Centre, 184 Mohawk St Brantford.
- j. **Ends Jan. 7** [SOS: A Story of Survival, Part II – The Body](#) Kitchener Waterloo Art Gallery, 101 Queen St. N., Kitchener.

5. Good Reads, News and Views

a. Reads

- i. [Indigenous Rights and Marine Spaces: Case Comment on Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation](#) Not Haldimand Tract but in Southwestern Ontario, in areas where many of us like to spend time.
- ii. [Indigenous Connections](#) Office of Indigenous Relations, UWaterloo.
- iii. [Listening to Indigenous Voices](#) new resources to help engage with this publication. Thank you, Jim Dawson.

b. News

- i. [Proposed legislation to amend the Indian Act continues discrimination it's designed to end, say MPs](#) Windspeaker.com.
- ii. [Indigenous leaders hopeful as Manitoba Premier Kinew takes on reconciliation portfolio](#) CBC
- iii. [Riel law will make leader Honourary First Premier of Manitoba](#) APTN
forwarded from Pam at W.I.ND.
- iv. [Multi-billion dollar Robinson Huron settlement likely to be distributed in new year says chief](#) APTN

c. Views

- i. [Videos: Indigenous voices on treaties | ontario.ca](#)